

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
SHERMAN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA §  
§ No. 4:20-CR-212  
v. § Judge Mazzant  
§  
DEBRA LYNN MERCER-ERWIN (1) §

**MOTION OF THE UNITED STATES FOR  
A PRELIMINARY ORDER OF FORFEITURE**

The United States of America, by its undersigned counsel, respectfully submits its Motion for a Preliminary Order of Forfeiture in the above-entitled case for the reasons set forth below. A proposed order is submitted with this motion.

1. On May 3, 2023, the defendant, **Debra Lynn Mercer-Erwin**, was found guilty by a Jury as to Counts One, Two, Four and Seven of the Fifth Superseding Indictment.
2. The Fifth Superseding Indictment included a Notice of Intention to Seek Criminal Forfeiture pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1); 21 U.S.C. §§ 853 and 970; and 28 U.S.C. § 2461.
3. Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 32.2(b)(1)(A) and (b)(2)(A), provides that:

(1)(A) As soon as practical after a verdict or finding of guilty, or after a plea of guilty or nolo contendere is accepted, on any count in an indictment or information regarding which criminal forfeiture is sought, the court must determine what property is subject to forfeiture under the applicable statute. If the government seeks forfeiture of specific property, the court must determine whether the government has established the requisite nexus between the property

and the offense. If the government seeks a personal money judgment, the court must determine the amount of money that the defendant will be ordered to pay.

(2)(A) If the court finds that property is subject to forfeiture, it must promptly enter a preliminary order of forfeiture setting forth the amount of any money judgment, directing the forfeiture of specific property, and directing the forfeiture of any substitute property if the government has met the statutory criteria. The court must enter the order without regard to any third party's interest in the property. Determining whether a third party has such an interest must be deferred until any third party files a claim in an ancillary proceeding under Rule 32.2(c).

Fed.R.Crim.P. 32.2(b)(1)(A), (b)(2)(A).

3. By virtue of the defendant being found guilty of Counts One, Two, Four and Seven of the Fifth Superseding Indictment, the United States has established the requisite basis for the forfeiture of a money judgment in the amount of \$50,000,000 to the United States pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1); 21 U.S.C. §§ 853 and 970; and 28 U.S.C. § 2461.

4. Because the forfeiture order will consist only of a money judgment, no ancillary proceeding will be required to adjudicate the interests of third parties in the forfeited property, pursuant to Rule 32.2(c)(1).

5. The United States respectfully requests the entry of a Preliminary Order of Forfeiture consisting of a money judgment in the amount of \$50,000,000 against the defendant.

Respectfully submitted,

DAMIEN M. DIGGS  
United States Attorney

/s/

---

ERNEST GONZALEZ  
Assistant United States Attorney  
Texas Bar No. 00789318  
101 E. Park Blvd., Suite 500  
Plano, Texas 75074  
(972) 509-1201  
(972) 509-1209 (fax)  
[Ernest.Gonzalez@usdoj.gov](mailto:Ernest.Gonzalez@usdoj.gov)

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing was electronically served on defense  
counsel of record on May 8, 2023.

/s/

---

ERNEST GONZALEZ